

all Americans and reduce the cost of gasoline.

NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S SPIRIT AWARDS

(Mr. SNYDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, the National Wheelchair Basketball Association is the largest and oldest wheelchair sports organization in the world. Established over 50 years ago, the NWBA has provided opportunities for people with physical disabilities, including children and disabled veterans, to play the game of basketball.

The NWBA runs on generosity and volunteers; and one of those volunteers is Harry Vines of Sherwood, Arkansas, who has served as president since 2001. Harry is known in Arkansas for many volunteer activities, most significantly as coach of the Arkansas Rollin' Razorbacks, a five-time national championship wheelchair basketball team that he helped found in 1978. A high school All American basketball player at Central High School in Little Rock, Harry played at Oklahoma City University before returning to Arkansas as a coach and later a rehab counselor and administrator.

Harry and the NWBA award, the NWBA Spirit Awards, recognize the work of outstanding volunteers and organizations that support the NWBA. The 2005 Spirit Award recipients include long-time UT-Arlington Jim Hayes, Bluegrass Invitational Tournament director Evelyn Bologna, Division III chairman Tim Stout, and the University of Illinois' Wheelchair Sports Program.

Congratulations to all of these outstanding individuals.

PASS DR-CAFTA

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to believe, but it was 2 long decades ago that we saw tyranny in Central America bring war and turmoil to our doorstep. Today, through U.S. assistance and the resolve of our neighbors to the south, civil war has been replaced by burgeoning democracies and free markets. Chaos has been replaced with the growing prevalence of the rule of law. Rather than a growing national security threat, this region has become an increasingly reliable partner in the war on terror, drug interdiction, and migration control. As fellow democracies, we are bound together by geography and a common commitment to liberty.

With the Dominican Republic Central American Free Trade Agreement, we have an opportunity to solidify this success and lock in the tremendous political and economic progress that has

been made. President Bush has made it clear that advancing the cause of freedom and liberty is central to our foreign policy goals. Passage of the DR-CAFTA will be a significant step forward in ensuring that the institutions of democracy and political pluralism are firmly entrenched throughout this hemisphere.

WEAKENED ETHICS RULES: WHO ARE THEY TRYING TO PROTECT?

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of this year, the House Republican leadership has worked to undermine the ethics process here. First, the leadership floated an ethics proposal that would have allowed Members of its leadership to continue to serve in leadership if they were indicted. When that did not go over too well, the leadership decided it could protect one of its own by making it more difficult to investigate unethical behavior. The leadership rushed through a new rule that would end an ethics complaint after 45 days if no agreement could be reached on how to proceed. Under the old rules, if the two parties could not come to an agreement, a subcommittee was automatically appointed to investigate.

Finally, to guarantee that Republican leadership would be able to quash any ethic complaints, they purged the committee of three members, including the chairman, who were not always willing to toe the party line. Then they replaced them with party loyalists.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership is going to extreme measures to weaken our ethics rules. It makes one wonder just whom they are trying to protect. Ethics and morals have been overtaken by hypocrisy.

CONGRESS UNDER REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I was elected to Congress just a little over 2 years ago, and our economy was in tough shape when I got in Congress. I did not really realize how tough a shape it was in. But under the leadership of this House, the leadership of the Speaker, the majority leader, we have worked on the problems of high unemployment, the low stock market. We made the tough choices and invested in our economy in 2003, and the result was a significant job growth.

Now in this Congress we have taken on additional good work. We have passed a highway bill, class action reform, bankruptcy reform. And this week, Mr. Speaker, we are going to work on our energy bill. This is important and timely legislation. Every member on our committee was heard

on their concerns. Every amendment was made in order and voted on, most on a roll call vote; and the bill passed out of committee with bipartisan support.

We had an energy bill 2 years ago, and that energy bill unfortunately was derailed by a procedural motion in the other body, and it was largely derailed by trial lawyers who felt that they were not getting their just desserts from the energy bill. Mr. Speaker, that is why it was outrageous to read in "Roll Call" yesterday that the senior vice president of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America said that they were upset with the asbestos bill over in the other body and it may have an impact on fund-raising from this particular bar.

Mr. Speaker, this is outrageous. Where are the calls for investigation? Where are the calls for ethics from the other body?

SRI LANKA

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during the recess, I was privileged to visit the country of Sri Lanka where there exists tension and sometimes open warfare between the government and the Tamilians.

Fortunately, partially as a result of the tsunami, there is a cease fire. I trust that the cease fire will continue, that a peaceful accord will be reached. But in the meantime, I would urge that we do everything within our power to make sure that relief resources are equally and fairly deployed throughout all areas of the country that were, in fact, affected. There is a tremendous resolve to try and arrive at peace. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that we will help.

TAKE POLITICS OUT OF THE ETHICS PROCESS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, we need to ask ourselves every now and then in a moment of truth on a bipartisan basis what this House is doing. Ethics rules should be there to prosecute somebody who has broken them. The same rules should be there to protect somebody who is innocent.

The Democrat members on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct do not want to meet. They do not want to give the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) due process. They do not want to give him an up-or-down vote. They are very content to discuss it with their allies at The Washington Post or the New York Times. They do not want to talk about how many educational trips they have been on with their families, although there is a list. They do not want to talk about how